

Subject: **NVS Push Packages**

Q. What does the term push package mean?

A. “Push package” refers to the shipment we will deploy within 24 hours. When a state concludes that it does not have enough resources to respond to an outbreak and requests our help, it need only tell us how many responders it has and the species involved and we will ship (i.e. push) what it needs immediately.

Each push package contains personal protective equipment (PPE), N95 and PAPR respirators, decontamination supplies, and other response items. PPE in a push package will protect 10 responders changing 5 times per day for 10 days. The push package consists of multiple pallets that we pre-pack for rapid deployment. If a state needs additional help, we may ship another push package, more of the items in the push package, or specific items that the push package does not contain.

Q. What is the size of a push pack?

A. A push package is currently eight pallets, each with a footprint of 40” x 48”. In the near future, we will expand the number of pallets to include more PPE supplies and to make the contents of a push package easier to find. After reconfiguration, for instance, one pallet may contain only large PPE sets so a responder can immediately go to that pallet. Currently, a pallet may contain several sizes of PPE, which may require unpacking the entire pallet to find the size a responder needs.

Q. Do push packages have to be stored in a temperature controlled environment?

A. No.

Q. Do I need special tools/equipment to open a push package?

A. Our push package has a waterproof plastic cap. Its body is stretch wrapped with film to protect it in transit. A box cutter would be helpful to remove the stretch wrap. In the near future, we will repack our push package into triwall containers that have a top the state can easily remove to access the contents.

Q: I don’t know much about the NVS. What does it do? What are its responsibilities?

A: The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) is the nation’s repository of supplies, vaccines, equipment, and other critical veterinary resources. Established by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 and operational in 2006, we are able to deploy large quantities of veterinary resources anywhere in the continental U.S. within 24 hours.

We exist because of the nation’s concern after 9/11 that terrorists could release animal diseases of catastrophic proportions that would

- deplete State and local response inventories,
- generate surge material requirements that would overwhelm traditional commercial sources, and



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- prevent unaffected States from providing significant help for fear of the threat crossing their borders.

Q: If I have more questions, how do I get answers?

A: Email us at nvs@aphis.usda.gov. We will respond quickly.